

LEND: Self Advocate Trainee Program

What is LEND?

The **LEND** Program at Kennedy Krieger Institute is a multidisciplinary training program whose purpose is to ensure the future development of professionals and advocates specialized in developmental disabilities. **LEND** stands for **L**eadership **E**ducation in **N**eurodevelopmental **D**isabilities and **R**elated **D**isorders. The **LEND at Kennedy Krieger** trains over 100 professionals in medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, nursing, psychology, special education, public health, audiology, and other fields every year. Family and self-advocates are an important part of our LEND training program.

What is the Self Advocate trainee Program?

The Self Advocate Trainee Program is a collaboration between **LEND** and **CORE Foundations** where we invite Self-Advocates to learn alongside health professionals in training. The training provides the Self-Advocates access to several training activities including:

- LEND Core Course (classes occur Tuesday mornings 9-11 AM via zoom or in person in the 1741 Ashland building conference room on the 8th floor)
- Topic Lectures
- Webinars
- Panels
- Advocacy Training and participation in Developmental Disabilities Day at the Maryland Legislature

We understand how important the personal perspective of Self-Advocates is to improving care for people with disabilities. We are providing Self-Advocates an opportunity to teach and guide health and education professionals through their personal stories. Over the course of the training, Self-Advocate trainees will learn to transform their personal stories and advocate for others.

Program Details

The program is looking for two Self Advocate Trainees to participate in our LEND program. There will be an in person orientation at the end of August. The first day of LEND class start on Tuesday September 9, 2025 at 9 AM. LEND will be over at the end of April 2026.

LEND Self Advocate trainees will receive a \$2000 stipend for participating in LEND training. In addition to the Tuesday Core Course, additional activities and meetings will either take place in person or zoom at different days and times.

In addition to attending lectures and participating as a speaker on panels, LEND Self Advocate trainees will complete a project to build their leadership and knowledge of a disability topic. This may include a video to teach others about an advocacy topic, helping create educational materials, or meeting with professionals and leaders in the community. LEND Self Advocate trainees will work with LEND and CORE staff to develop a leadership development plan and complete projects.

Who are we interested in recruiting?

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We are interested in recruiting 2 Self-Advocate Trainees who already have leadership experience and who is ready to take leadership to the next level. Would you like to learn more? Contact Dr. Miya Asato at asato@kennedykrieger.org to hear about the program.